

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-639

September 9, 1998

CENTRAL MAINE POWER V. JAMES RIMAN  
Appeal of Consumer Assistance Division  
Decision, Complaint #5876  
Regarding Central Maine Power Company

ORDER ON APPEAL

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, Commissioner

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**I. SUMMARY**

We uphold the Consumer Assistance Division (CAD) August 10, 1998 decision related to Mr. James Riman's account with Central Maine Power Company (CMP), as clarified by this Order.

**II. DECISION**

Pursuant to an agreement negotiated by Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Mr. Riman is required to pay CMP each month \$61.00 (towards a past due balance of \$3,112.70) and his current bill. Mr. Riman failed to keep this arrangement and CMP demanded payment of \$234.88 by August 10, 1998 in order to avoid disconnection. Mr. Riman complained to CAD on August 6, 1998, that he would be unable to make this payment until August 11, 1998. CAD issued its decision on August 10, 1998, and found "[t]he amount due to catch up on your arrangement is \$234.38 today and another payment of \$207.48 will be due as of August 11, 1998. This repair amount must be paid by August 17, 1998, if payment is not made, the utility can issue you a 3-day notice which can result in disconnection of your utility service."

On August 17, 1998, Mr. Riman appealed CAD's decision to the Commission. He states that he is not disputing the required payment of \$234.38 but he questions the requirement to pay \$207.48. Mr. Riman apparently read the CAD decision to mean a payment of \$541.86 (\$234.88 plus \$207.48) was due on August 17, 1998 to avoid disconnection. We agree that the CAD letter was unclear as to the amount due on August 17, 1998. Only the repair amount of \$234.38 was due on August 17, 1998. The amount of \$207.48 was Mr. Riman's current bill due on August 11, 1998, but unrelated to the then pending disconnection notice.

With this clarification, we uphold CAD's decision of August 10, 1998 and dismiss Mr. Riman's appeal without further investigation.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 9th day of September, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch  
Nugent

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5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

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